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Chairman: Mr. KHAN (Pakistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/49/3 and Add.1, A/49/56-S/26926, A/49/122-E/1994/44 and Add.1, A/49/169-E/1994/73, A/49/179-E/1994/82, A/49/189, A/49/215-E/1994/99, A/49/423, 437, 495 and 506; A/49/L.5; A/C.2/49/3, 4 and 6 and A/C.2/49/L.2 and L.3)

1. The CHAIRMAN briefly introduced the documents before the Committee for the consideration of agenda item 12.

2. Mr. STOBY (Director, Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Affairs) raised six specific points relating to the work of the Economic and Social Council during the past year. With regard to (a) the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/162 (further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields), it was worth noting that as a result of the Council's steadfast efforts to improve its practices, important results had been achieved and perhaps the time had come to declare victory, to decide that the revitalization of the Council was complete and that it should now spend more time considering substantive issues using the new instruments at its disposal.

3. With regard to (b) the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, which was so important for the prestige of the Council and the quality of its work, he pointed out a very serious problem relating to participation in the so-called high-level segment: participation was not at a high level. Furthermore, the Council had not followed up on its intention to request the Bretton Woods institutions to provide specialized reports, which would impart greater substance to and enrich the debates at the high-level segment. Nevertheless, the Council would do well to use that instrument at its subsequent sessions. A topic should be selected for the day set aside for a general policy dialogue, which was not the case at present. The Council should take up the question of the future representation in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which, as was well-known, was to be succeeded by the World Trade Organization.

4. With regard to (c) the debate in the Council on coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system, he cautioned against a repetitious examination of the major issues relating to coordination, which would result in a tedious multiplication of reports on the subject. A decision should be taken very soon on the topic of the debate on policy coordination. As delegations were aware, the preparation of reports, particularly on coordination, required substantial time and effort, and the interval between the organizational session (February) and the substantive session (July) was too short. The topic of the debate on policy coordination therefore should be selected one year in advance.

5. With regard to (d) the operational activities of the United Nations system for international development cooperation segment, he pointed out that while the debate had been lively, the result at the 1994 session had not yet proved

optimal and the Council had not gone far enough in its instructions to the new governing bodies of organs responsible for operational activities. Those were primarily the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as the World Food Programme (WFP). There was a problem with respect to the governing body of WFP, which had not yet been established; the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes had established a working group which was meeting for that purpose; however, in the event of a disagreement between FAO and the Economic and Social Council - WFP's parent bodies - each of which was to adopt a resolution on the subject, consideration might be given to establishing a joint Council/FAO working group to reconcile, if necessary, the texts of the two bodies on the modalities for establishing a new governing body.

6. With regard to (e) the coordination of humanitarian activities, he wondered, as the President of the Economic and Social Council had done, whether the Council, at its July session, should not also have taken steps to coordinate the humanitarian activities of UNICEF, UNDP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as well as those of non-governmental organizations, relating to the crisis in Rwanda. The intent certainly was not to establish a new coordinating body in the humanitarian field, and it was up to the Council itself to ensure or enhance such cooperation if it so desired. In the view of many representatives, numerous questions as to the Council's role in the Rwandan crisis had remained unanswered in that regard.

7. As to (f) the problem of documentation, he said that the situation was very unfortunate both for the Secretariat and for the Committee itself. He wished to assure the Committee of the good faith of the Secretariat, which did not wish texts to be issued late, and proposed that a group should be set up to discuss documentation problems, which were not improving. The Secretariat - substantive departments and departments responsible for document processing alike - was simply overwhelmed by the volume of documentation that had to be produced. The solution undoubtedly would be for committees to request fewer documents, which would make it possible to produce them on time and improve their quality.

8. Mr. AHMIA (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Economic and Social Council was one of the keystones of the United Nations system, particularly in matters relating to the coordination and orientation of the activities of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. Long eclipsed by the cold war, its role was now being acknowledged anew: it truly was an instrument capable of perceiving the concerns of the international community, particularly their economic and social dimensions. It would be called upon to play an even greater role in the wake of the restructuring and revitalization of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations and as more precise ideas emerged in the debate on an agenda for development. The 1994 session of the Economic and Social Council had indicated a number of inadequacies which should be considered and corrected. However, the session had made a major contribution to the maturation of views on an agenda for development and the debate had highlighted guidelines which the Secretary-General could draw upon in elaborating the final version of his report on an agenda for development. The Group of 77 had contributed to the discussion by

submitting a substantive document containing the Ministerial Statement on an agenda for development, adopted by the Group of 77 (A/49/204-E/1994/90).

9. During the other phases of the session, the debates on operational activities for development also had been fruitful; there had been a very useful exchange of views with the heads of various departments of the United Nations Secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199. Consideration of that question had revealed the disturbing trend towards a reduction in allocations to finance operational activities, and the equally disturbing tendency of certain United Nations entities to stray from their mission and their sphere of competence as defined in the resolutions of the General Assembly. Moreover, some of the partners of the Group of 77 had displayed their reluctance and scant interest in matters relating to the financing of operational activities, an attitude which contrasted with their reaction to the reform of the structure and management of funds and programmes. The debate on the item on science and technology for development had underscored the paucity of funds allocated to that crucial sector. Nevertheless, the Vienna Programme of Action remained valid and its provisions should be fully and effectively implemented.

10. The resurgence of crises, whether environmental or man-made, increasingly called for action by the United Nations and its bodies, but the outlay on that kind of action was detrimental to the traditional development activities undertaken by the United Nations system. Humanitarian operations undertaken in response to major crises in which human lives were at stake, should be part of a continuing reconstruction and development effort. Resident coordinators could coordinate such activities but should make sure that they were not assigned any mandate of a political nature and also that they respected the sovereign rights of States.

11. Regarding certain long standing endemic diseases such as malaria or recent epidemics such as AIDS, Member States emphasized, in the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council, the need to coordinate the activities of United Nations agencies in the field.

12. Proceedings during the consideration of the reports and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies had been hampered both by the plethora of documents and by their late publication. Steps should be taken to prevent such setbacks. The Council would consider the reports of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development and the Committee on Natural Resources; because of the technical character of those Committees' recommendations it would be difficult to introduce any amendments or changes, which might affect both the status and the mandate of the two Committees. At its resumed session, the Council would also be considering the future of the Committee for Development Planning. The Group of 77 and China had already commended the work carried out by that body and stressed the importance they attached to its intergovernmental character and the nature of its mandate.

13. Mr. KÄÄRIÄ (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that resolution 48/162 was an important step in the process to revitalize the United

Nations in the economic and social fields and that the reforms proposed therein should be carried out. The Nordic countries were following developments closely and were concerned about the slow progress of the reform of the World Food Programme.

14. The resolution had clarified the roles of the intergovernmental bodies at different levels, including those of the General Assembly and the Second Committee, which should result in more meaningful debates. At a time when more was expected of the United Nations in the development arena, especially in regard to the Bretton Woods institutions, the General Assembly might usefully focus its work on a small number of central development issues and adopt resolutions on them that would have an impact on the outside world.

15. Recent summits and conferences had yielded valuable results and might form the basis for a human-centred approach to development which might become the cornerstone of an agenda for development, while at the same time giving all the organizations in the system greater unity of purpose.

16. Intergovernmental mechanisms should relate their reporting to the five pillars of development outlined by the Secretary-General in his report on an agenda for development (A/48/935) and the Organization should strengthen its role in development by responding to the challenges arising from those major conferences, without compartmentalizing the various follow-up activities into numerous functional commissions and parallel arrangements.

17. The proliferation of conferences was a cause for concern. While such events did focus political attention on very important issues, they also tended to act as a substitute for the General Assembly. Entrusting policy formulation to such conferences meant that the General Assembly was being stripped of one of its vital prerogatives; such conferences also placed a severe financial strain on the Organization.

18. In order to revitalize the United Nations in the economic and social fields, the first step should be to enhance the role of the General Assembly and again make it the forum for substantive discussions on essential issues by pruning its agenda. That would be extremely important in attracting Ministers who now participated in the conferences rather than in the substantive work of the Assembly itself.

19. The role of resolution 48/162 in regard to coordination had been strengthened by the decision taken of a common accord to transfer policy-related issues from the governing bodies of the United Nations development funds and programmes to the Economic and Social Council.

20. Further improvements were needed, however, in certain areas. The meeting with the executive heads of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) should be more focused and implementation of the recommendations of the coordination segment should be considered at the general segment so that appropriate resolutions could be adopted if the recommendations had not been implemented. With regard

to the operational activities of the United Nations for the international development cooperation segment, the topics entrusted to it should be thoroughly discussed in that segment rather than being transferred to a separate conference. The new procedures introduced in the general segment, focusing discussion on action to be taken instead of on general statements, were very encouraging and should be continued.

21. In his statement, the President of the Council had raised two crucial issues which the Nordic countries would like to underscore. The first was that the true test of the work of the Economic and Social Council or of the General Assembly was and should be its impact on the outside world. The second was that decisions must be followed through and their implementation closely monitored.

22. Resolution 48/162 had also provided for the transformation of certain governing bodies of United Nations development programmes and funds into Executive Boards. That reform, which had finally met with the approval of the executive heads of the funds and programmes, was essential in bringing about real efficiency and change. There had already been an improvement in the reports submitted by those Executive Boards and in their working methods, and debates had been more concise and less politicized; formal statements had given way to dialogue. There was still room for improvement in the decision-making process. To that end, it was necessary to resist the proliferation of subcommittees and other standing working groups and to preserve the transparency of the system by making the Boards themselves responsible for considering all issues, if need be by increasing the number of Board meetings.

23. The Nordic countries considered that the difficulties in financing operational activities for development were politically as important as those of the peace-keeping operations or the regular budget. The reforms on financing provided for in resolution 48/162 had not yet been implemented, which was why the Nordic countries were pleased that the working group responsible for that issue would be meeting in December.

24. The Nordic countries, which had repeatedly proposed replacing the outdated, unpredictable mechanism for financing operational activities for development by a more simple mechanism, agreed with the Secretary-General that the financing situation could not be secured through a new mechanism alone, since it depended first and foremost on the political will of Member States and on the importance they attached to operational activities for development. The restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, particularly the financing of operational activities for development, depended on the conception of the role of the United Nations in those fields, an issue that was being debated in the context of the discussion on an agenda for development. The undertaking should therefore be seen as part of a major dynamic process and should respond to needs as and when they arose.

25. Mr. SAVOSTIANOV (Russian Federation) said that for the first time the debates in the Economic and Social Council had followed the guidelines laid down by General Assembly resolution 48/162 and that, as a whole, the results of that initial experience were satisfactory: the work of the Council had been more

pragmatic and far less politicized. The Council had been able better to focus on its fundamental mandate - coordinating the activities of the organs and bodies within the United Nations system in the social and economic fields.

26. The political importance of the high-level segment had once again been demonstrated in connection with the consideration of the agenda for development which had enabled the Council to examine in depth those strategies which the Organization could apply as part of its efforts to achieve sustainable development, and its relationship with the Bretton Woods institutions in that sphere.

27. The direct dialogue with the executive heads of the United Nations agencies and of the economic and financial institutions on fundamental issues of world development had been definitively recognized as the fundamental feature of the Council's work.

28. The rationalization of the Council's sessions had already borne fruit by eliminating overlapping between the debates of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and those of the sessional committees of the General Assembly. In addition, the number of resolutions had fortunately declined and their pragmatic character had been considerably enhanced.

29. The debate on operational activities had been extremely constructive, and in particular the high-level meeting which had for the first time been devoted to operational activities. However, there was no denying that consideration of operational activities at that meeting had to a large extent duplicated the working meetings of the plenary session. The adoption of resolution 1994/33 and of decision 1994/293 on the rationalization of the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council, which emphasized the need to coordinate the implementation of policies defined by the General Assembly in the area of operational activities, was wholly justified. His delegation approved the decision to adopt, as the principal theme for the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment, the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Cairo Conference. The decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 1994 substantive session were a welcome complement to the relevant sections of resolution 48/162 and enabled the Economic and Social Council to occupy its proper place in order to discharge its mandate within the context of the division of labour among the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations development funds and programmes.

30. During the discussion on coordination of humanitarian assistance, the analysis of the shortcomings in the functioning of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and in field-level coordination in the early stages of an emergency had been particularly beneficial. The close links between the humanitarian and peace-keeping components of emergency operations had been reaffirmed, thereby demonstrating the need to strengthen links between the competent departments of the Secretariat.

31. Under the agreed conclusions adopted on the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United

Nations system related to science and technology for development, the sector responsible for that field was requested to take responsibility for the tasks defined by the Rio Conference, and in particular the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. The strengthening of links between the regional technology centres of regional commissions and the high technology centres of agencies such as UNIDO and the United Nations University, together with the development of computerized communication networks within the United Nations system to link scientific and technical services and projects were most important.

32. Thus, the work of the Economic and Social Council had been judiciously redirected. There were undoubtedly still quite a number of shortcomings; however, his delegation, while recognizing in principle that further rationalization of the general segment was required, believed that excessive regulation of the debates should be avoided and that Member States should be allowed freely to speak on questions under consideration.

33. By contrast the situation regarding documentation had not really improved for documents were being issued even later than in previous years; it was essential to remedy that state of affairs. He drew attention to a draft resolution which had been submitted to the Council at its previous session on the modalities of reporting in the economic, social and related fields (E/1994/L.41), consideration of which had been postponed to the current session of the General Assembly. As a sponsor of the draft resolution, his delegation invited other delegations to support it, as its adoption would be in the interests of all.

34. Mr. KHANI (Syria) said that the General Assembly had on numerous occasions reasserted the inalienable rights of the Arab citizens of the occupied Arab territories, including occupied Syrian Golan, over their natural resources, and had condemned Israeli practices intended to exploit those resources and to impose restrictions on agriculture, in breach of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Convention of The Hague of 1907 and the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

35. The report of the Secretary-General, (A/49/169-E/1994/73) described those illegal practices. As the Secretary-General noted, only 15,000 inhabitants remained in the Golan of the 130,000 who had lived there before the 1967 war, and the Israeli authorities had seized 80 per cent of the land and built 36 settlements. They had initiated an unprecedented policy of uprooting fruit trees, thereby depriving farmers of their main source of income and forcing them to leave the land. The Israelis followed the same practice in the occupied Syrian Golan, the excuse being that permits to plant seedlings had not been obtained from Israeli authorities.

36. Water remained to be one of the most crucial issues affecting the economic and social development of the people in the occupied Arab territories. The Israeli military governors of the Syrian Golan had issued a series of orders establishing rules relating to the whole range of activities involving water, which had enabled the Israeli authorities and the settlers to seize and utilize water resources. As a result, the water resources were utilized mainly in

favour of the occupying Power; the water consumed by the population of the occupied Territories was strictly for personal use and not for agricultural or economic development. The implementation of such a measure had hampered economic development in the occupied Arab territories. That deliberate policy on the part of the Israeli occupying authorities was intended to deprive the Syrian Arab citizens of water and to destroy the agriculture and livestock of the five Golan villages.

37. Israel had also spread chemicals which had altered the climate and the nature of the soil, discharged toxic waste in areas that were not intended to receive waste and planted mines in pastures used by the Arabs. He concluded by asserting that the Syrian Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan still suffered various forms of oppression that would not cease until the yoke of the hateful foreign occupation was removed.

38. Mr. HENZE (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the restructuring and revitalization of the Economic and Social Council had made significant progress during the year. The deliberations, by focusing on specific points, had become livelier, and fewer resolutions and decisions had been adopted, which was a sure sign of efficiency in the conduct of its business. The work of restructuring should continue, and the European Union would firmly support all further measures to that end, as set out in annex I of General Assembly resolution 48/162.

39. The high-level segment had focused on important developments in the world economy and on international economic cooperation with the heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions. The European Union had participated actively in those discussions. Dialogue with representatives of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development or the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was very valuable and should be further developed and intensified in order to improve international cooperation as a whole. There was considerable room for improvement in the cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, taking into account the comparative advantages of each institution. It had been confirmed that the United Nations had an important consensus-building role in many areas.

40. The coordination segment had dealt with the coordination policies of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system. The Council had adopted new procedures which had helped to streamline that work. The part of the segment devoted to international cooperation in the fight against drugs, for example, had given rise to a very interesting discussion on several salient points. The conclusions on international cooperation within the United Nations system against the illicit production, sale, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotics provided a good basis for further action in that field.

41. Humanitarian activities were of the utmost importance, and the discussions in the Council had furthered understanding of the need for greater coordination of the various specialized agencies' efforts in that area.

42. The segment on operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation had provided an opportunity for a dialogue with the heads of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and with the regional economic commissions. The European Union had already emphasized the effectiveness and efficiency of the operational activities, and it reiterated the importance of such new instruments as the country strategy note, the programme approach, the resident coordinator system, decentralization to the field, common premises and the harmonization of cycles.

43. The general segment, in its new format, had proved a success. The European Union welcomed the procedural modifications aimed at improving the conduct of debates. Business had been conducted briskly, with debates dealing only with reports which had been discussed in advance.

44. Unfortunately documentation problems had still not been satisfactorily resolved. Important documents still appeared too late, sometimes on the very day they were to be discussed. The European Union supported Austria's draft resolution regarding requests for documentation. Those problems had affected the work on several reports containing preformulated draft resolutions. The Council should give more detailed guidance to the expert committees on how to present their advice and recommendations.

45. The European Union considered that, despite the flaws, the Council's work as a whole had been successful and was going in the right direction, as evidenced by the decisions taken during the year on such important questions as HIV/AIDS, narcotic drugs and humanitarian activities. The European Union would continue to participate in the reform of the Council's activities.

46. Mr. SHREIM (Observer for Palestine), speaking on agenda item 12, "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan", said that the international community had unanimously condemned the Israeli policy of establishing settlements, which was illegal and violated numerous Security Council resolutions. Despite that condemnation, Israel had pursued its policy and moved more than 125,000 settlers into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where they comprised around 13 per cent of the population. Further, Israel had moved more than 140,000 settlers into East Jerusalem. It was estimated that 50 per cent of the land of the West Bank and 30 per cent of the Gaza Strip had been confiscated by the Israeli authorities to establish settlements.

47. In spite of the positive developments in the peace process between Palestine and Israel, the Israeli Government was continuing to build dwellings, albeit at a slower pace, and it clearly intended to persist in its policy of establishing settlements. Its objective was to create a de facto situation designed to preempt future negotiations. The Israeli Government was thus violating the spirit and the letter of the Declaration of Principles which it had signed on 13 September 1993 with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

48. The situation was worsening because the Israeli settlers constituted an armed militia - a second army of occupation, as it were - which committed illegal acts of violence against unarmed civilian Palestinians. He recalled the massacre of Palestinians in the Hebron mosque and emphasized the importance of Security Council resolution 904 (1994), which called "upon Israel ... to take and implement measures, including ... confiscation of arms, with the aim of preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers" and which also called for a temporary international or foreign presence throughout the occupied territory. He thanked the three countries - Norway, Italy and Denmark - which had participated in the temporary presence and regretted the fact that it had been terminated since there was still a need for it.

49. In the Declaration of Principles, the parties had postponed the issue of settlements to a later stage of the negotiations. Palestine was committed to that decision but believed that it entailed the absolute cessation of any settlement activities by the Israeli authorities. Implementation of the next phase of the Declaration of Principles, including redeployment of the Israeli forces outside the populated areas, could not be carried out in reality without the removal of the Israeli settlers from centres such as Hebron.

50. The international community had a responsibility to guarantee full respect for international law in the question of illegal Israeli settlements. If there was a desire for the negotiations to culminate in a just and lasting peace, it was important for Security Council resolution 904 (1994) to be fully implemented.

51. Mr. AITMATOV (Kyrgyzstan) said that consideration of the report of the Economic and Social Council was clearly important, since it covered the question of sustainable development, the most important question at the current juncture, particularly for newly independent States and States with economies in transition, including Kyrgyzstan. The report contained an in-depth study of the problems of economic and social development and proposed appropriate solutions. Another key issue was the question of coordination with the United Nations development funds and programmes; the reforms already undertaken in that area seemed to be extremely positive.

52. One question mentioned in the report was of particular interest to the Kyrgyz people, namely, the proclamation of 1995 as the International Year for the millennium of the Kyrgyz National Epic Manas, a question on which the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 1994/49 by consensus. That epic, which was unfortunately still relatively unknown to the international community, had begun as an oral account of the exploits of a hero who had called on the Kyrgyz people to fight for freedom and national independence. In written form, it was a very vast poetic work for it included contained a million lines - and one of very great literary value. It was also the foundation of the cultural, moral, historical, social and religious traditions of the Kyrgyz people and of the entire nomadic culture. The proclamation of the year 1995 as the International Year for the millennium of the Kyrgyz National Epic Manas would symbolize the renaissance of the Kyrgyz people, a people which was very ancient historically speaking but a very young member of the international

community. It would also ensure the epic its rightful place in the world cultural heritage.

53. His Government had proclaimed the year 1995 as the Year for the Commemoration of the Manas Epic. It coincided with two major events in the life of the international community: the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the United Nations Year for Tolerance. Those three events were united by a single objective: to pay tribute to the ideals of peace, justice and tolerance. Accordingly, his delegation hoped that the Economic and Social Council would confirm its decision to recommend to the General Assembly that it should adopt the draft resolution at its forty-ninth session.

AGENDA ITEM 89: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(c) SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION OF THE MARINE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE HIGH SEAS: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON STRADDLING FISH STOCKS AND HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS (continued) (A/C.2/49/L.5)

54. Mr. NANDAN (Fiji) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.5 on the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The Conference had been discussed in the report of the Secretary-General on that subject (A/49/522).

55. The Conference had sought to respond to the considerable pressure on fisheries in the high seas. That pressure was due both to the fact that, since the establishment of exclusive economic zones of 200 nautical miles in the early 1970s, States had intensified their fishing activity in the high seas and also to technological innovations such as the use of on-board factories, new nets and electronics. Moreover, the intensification of fishing activities affected not only the high seas but also exclusive economic zones. All in all, there had been a rapid depletion of marine resources with disastrous socio-economic effects in certain regions.

56. The Conference had studied all those problems in the context of the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to fishing. It had elaborated on those provisions so that States could agree on a number of points: the nature of conservation and management measures applicable to the two types of stocks; a mechanism for global and regional cooperation for the management of stocks; the discharge of the duties of flag States whose nationals fished on the high seas; the enforcement of fisheries management measures by flag States; regional arrangements in that regard; the role of port States in promoting international conservation and management measures; the issue of non-parties to regional or subregional fisheries management organizations or arrangements; a mechanism for the settlement of disputes; a mechanism for ensuring compatibility and coherence between national and international conservation measures applicable to the same stocks.

57. The Conference had achieved considerable progress in all areas. It had completed the first part of its mandate, which had been to identify the issues. It had made significant strides in formulating measures designed to settle the

problem of fisheries. It had before it a negotiating text submitted by its Chairman, which had become a draft agreement. There seemed to be an understanding that that draft would take the final form of a binding instrument.

58. The negotiations were proceeding, however, and the Conference must hold two further sessions in 1995 in order to complete its work, which it was determined to conclude before the fiftieth session of the General Assembly. Accordingly, as the Secretary-General had stated in his report, it had recommended to the General Assembly that it should provide facilities for two further sessions in 1995.

59. Referring to the actual text of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.5, he introduced the major points and summarized the preamble and the operative paragraphs. He noted that the text reiterated the provisions of the resolution on that subject adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, with some amendments in order to update them. The draft resolution was the culmination of consultations held among the delegations directly concerned, which had reached an agreement on its wording. His delegation was responsible for introducing it because he was the Chairman of the Conference.

AGENDA ITEM 90: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)
(A/C.2/49/L.4)

60. Mr. AHMIA (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.4 on the United Nations Development Programme. It was a very short, but carefully worded text with a view to avoiding all controversial issues and taking into account all the views expressed by Member States and other interested parties since the publication of the Human Development Report.

61. He read out the preamble, then analysed the provisions of the draft resolution. In doing so, he highlighted the importance of ensuring that deliberations on the Human Development Report were independent and conducted separably from those on UNDP operations, and of improving the process of consultations with Member States. The Group of 77 and China hoped that fruitful consultations would be held on the text under consideration and that it could be adopted by consensus.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.